

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /023 W

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R 291730Z APR 75

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: AIR TRANSAFRICA AND RHODESIAN SANCTIONS

USDOC FOR APPEALS BOARD (DOLAN)

REF: DOLAN/AIR TRANSAFRICA LETTER OF APRIL 11, 1975

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED WITH SOME PUZZLEMENT REFERENCED MEMO REQUESTING IT TO DELIVER TO AIR TRANSAFRICA LETTER INFORMING FIRM THAT IT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO U.S. SANCTIONS UNLESS IT COULD ESTABLISH THAT IT HAD NO CONNECTION WITH GABONESE REGISTERED FIRM AFFRETAIR. OUR PUZZLEMENT DUE TO FACT WE HAD ALWAYS BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION AIR TRANSAFRICA WAS RHODESIAN FIRM AND WE KNOW OF NO ONE IN GABON CONNECTED WITH FIRM.

2. ASSUMING WASHINGTON HAD INFO UNAVAILABLE TO US AND DETERMINED TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN THE VIGOROUS APPLICATION OF RHODESIAN SANCTIONS, EMBASSY COUNSELOR TOOK LETTER TO ADAMS, AFFRETAIR REP, WHO ONLY PERSON KNOWN TO EMBASSY TO BE FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE RHODESIAN ACTIVITIES HERE AND WHO HAD RECENTLY PROVED TO BE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE.

3. ADAMS READ LETTER AND ASKED WITH UNCONCEALED AMUSEMENT WHETHER WASHINGTON DID NOT HAVE A SALISBURY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FROM WHICH IT COULD READILY BE LEARNED

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THAT AIR TRANSAFRICA WAS RHODESIAN FIRM WITH HEADQUARTERS

IN SALISBURY. ADAMS SAID HE ASSUMED AIR TRANSAFRICA HAD LONG BEEN ON U.S. SANCTIONS LIST BECAUSE IT WAS RHODESIAN FIRM, IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY TIES WITH AFFRETAIR WHICH ADAMS CATEGORICALLY DENIED EXISTED.

4. IN ORDER TO BE HELPFUL, ADAMS OFFERED TO MAIL DEPARTMENT'S LETTER FOR US IN SALISBURY AS THERE WAS NO ONE CONNECTED WITH AIR TRANSAFRICA IN GABON. ADAMS OPINED THAT COMPANY WOULD BE AS SURPRISED AND AMUSED AS HE WAS TO RECEIVE LETTER AND HARDLY LIKELY TO REPLY.

5. COMMENT: BELIEVE WE SHOULD PLACE AIR TRANSAFRICA ON CURRENT LIST OF RHODESIAN FIRMS WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. SUGGEST ALSO AF/C PASS TO COMMERCE COPY OF COUNTRYMAN/ADAMS MEMCON OF APRIL 17 ON ACTIVITIES OF AFFRETAIR AND AIR TRANSAFRICA (POUCHED APRIL 26.)
MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AIRCRAFT, INDUSTRY, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIBREV00633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-1068
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975048/aaaaagzt.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 RIL 11, 75 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR TRANSAFRICA AND RHODESIAN SANCTIONS USDOC FOR APPEALS BOARD (DOLAN)
TAGS: ETRD, RH, US
To: COM STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006